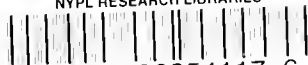


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GENEALOGICAL NOTES  
OF  
The Colden Family  
IN  
AMERICA.

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BY EDWIN R. PURPLE,

Member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.

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*EDITION, FIFTY COPIES,*

FROM THE NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD ;

WITH ADDITIONS.

*In*  
*Ernst A. Dujchink Esq-*  
*Respects of*  
*E. R. Riple.*

# THE COLDEN FAMILY

IN

AMERICA.

---

The founder of the Colden family in New York, Lieutenant Governor CADWALLADER COLDEN, was the son of Rev. Alexander Colden, Minister of Dunse, in the Merse Berwickshire, Scotland. All his ancestors to a remote degree were Scotch, but he was born in Ireland, his mother being on a temporary visit there, February 7th, 1687, O. S. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh by his parents with a view to be settled in the Church of Scotland, but after completing his studies there in 1705, his inclinations were adverse to this, and he applied himself to the study of physic. The expense of his education having so far exhausted the limited means of his father, as to render it impossible for him to aid him, in commencing his career as a physician in England or Scotland, young Colden determined to emigrate to America. Another motive he had in coming here was, his mother had a widowed sister in Philadelphia, who had acquired some estate there, and was childless; this fact led him to decide upon making Philadelphia his future home, where he arrived in 1710, took up his abode with his aunt, and commenced the practice of his profession.

In 1715 he returned to Great Britain, where he became acquainted with Dr. Edmund Halley, and other "men of learning at London, in the mathematics," to which his taste chiefly inclined him. In pursuance of the main object, probably, of his visit to his native land, he left London for Scotland, where, on the 11th of November, 1715, at Kelso, he married Alice Christy, the daughter of a clergyman of that place. The next year he returned to Philadelphia with his wife, and resumed the practice of medicine. In 1718 he visited New York, "without thought," he says, "of changing my residence," but calling upon the Governor of the place (Robert Hunter), "as was usual for strangers to do," was received more kindly than he expected, and though he staid but three days in the town, was specially invited several times to the Governor's house. About two weeks after his return to Philadelphia, he received a letter from Gov. Hunter, inviting him to come to New York with his family, accompanied with the offer of an office of profit, which he

accepted, and soon after removed to this city <sup>(1)</sup>. The earliest date we find fixing his residence in New York is October 6th, 1718, on which day, with James Kennedy and James Alexander, he petitions for a grant of land, upon which, a warrant for a patent "for 2,000 acres of land lying in the County of Ulster" was issued to him, April 9th, 1719 <sup>(2)</sup>.

On the 18th of February, 1720, Gov. Hunter issued his warrant under the Privy Seal constituting Dr. Colden Surveyor <sup>(3)</sup> of Lands, and his Commission, under Seal of the Province, bears date April 16th, following.

The favorable regard and friendship of Gov. Hunter was continued to Dr. Colden by his successor, William Burnet, who assumed the government of the Province on the 17th of September, 1720, and on the 26th of the next November, recommended him and James Alexander to the Lords of Trade, as his Majesty's Counsellors, to fill the places of Philip Schuyler and Adolphus Philips. In 1722 he was admitted to the Council, and took his seat in that body for the first time on the 30th of May, in that year.

Soon after obtaining his patent for land in Ulster County, he procured another for one thousand acres, adjoining the first, to which he gave the name of "Coldenham," now known, and for many years past, after its first proprietor, as Coldenham, in the town of Montgomery, Orange County. To the subjugation of this land from its desert wildness, to cultivated fields, Dr. Colden early directed his attention. Of the progress he made in this work before removing his family there, and as indicating the date of the first settlement of Coldenham, we extract the following from his *MSS. Farm Journal*, now before us. The first entry bears date August 15th, 1727, and reads as follows: "*Journal of my Farm begun 1727. On the 15th of August we sow'd 4 $\frac{1}{10}$  Bushels Rye upon a summer fallow after Indian Corn. The ground was very mellow. Sow'd under furrow about 3 acres. At the same time sow'd some spinage in the Garden.* \* \* \* \* \* "*On the 13th of Sept'r we pull'd our Seed hemp. The same day I throw'd small quantities of hop Clover seed behind the house.* \* \* \* \* \*

"*The 20th of Oct'r I put a parcel of Haws into hole in ye ground in ye second trench from the fence behind the house at the end next the cow pen to be sown next fall. About that time I pail'd in the Garden. The Posts & rails of Chestnut made of trees that had been kill'd about 3 or 4 years & the Clapboards or pails of white oak from trees fell'd about ye 10th of this month. The rails of ye 5th & 7th pannels from ye Garden door next ye brook were of red oak rails that had been cut 6 or 7 years.*"

Upon the retirement, April 15th, 1728, of Gov. Burnet, Dr. Colden removed his family, which now consisted of his wife and six young children, from New York to his new home at Coldenham. To this change of residence he was led by a desire to reduce within the means of a limited income, the expenses of a large and increasing family, to

(1) Selections from the Scientific Correspondence of Cadwallader Colden, &c., by Asa Gray, M. D., New Haven, 1843, p. 36-7.

(2) Calendar of New York Colonial MSS., indorsed, Land Papers, &c., 1643-1802, Albany, 1864, pp. 126 and 128.

(3) It has been stated that Dr. Colden was the first Surveyor General of the Province of New York. Augustine Graham held the office for many years prior to his death in 1719, and was succeeded by Allane Jarratt, in October of that year.

avoid the jealousies and rivalries inseparable from his official position in the provincial Capitol, and to secure, in the seclusion of this—then wilderness abode, that leisure for philosophical study, to which he was so much inclined. It was principally during his residence here—embracing a period of more than thirty years—that he maintained with great regularity a voluminous correspondence with many of the learned men of Europe and America, upon a variety of scientific subjects. Among the most prominent of these, were Linnæus and Gronovius, to the latter of whom, in March, 1743, he transmitted a detailed description of some of the plants about Coldenham. This communication was sent by Gronovius to Linnæus, who had the first part of it published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Science at Upsal, in 1749, under the title of “*Plantæ Coldenhamiæ, &c.*” This illustrious cultivator of the science of botany, as a recognition of the services of Dr. Colden in that department of learning, named a plant of the *tetrandrous* specie *Coldenia*, thus enrolling his name in the “heraldry of scientific distinction,” and clothing it with “botanical honors.”

Among other of his principal correspondence was that with Peter Collinson of the Royal Society of London, on Botany and History; Peter Kalm of the Royal Academy of Stockholm, on Natural History; the Earl of Macclesfield on Astronomy and Mathematics; and with Dr. Franklin in this country, on Printing, Electricity, and general subjects connected with Natural Philosophy. These writings bear evidence of the indefatigable industry, as well as the varied acquirements of learning of which Dr. Colden was the possessor. He had, upon becoming a member of the King's Council, relinquished—except in his family and among a few friends—the practice of physic; but his frequent contributions to the medical literature of his times—up to a late period of his life—attest the continued love he bore to the chosen profession of his youth. These articles are distinguished by great care in their preparation, great originality of thought, and close observation of the subjects to which they relate. He was the first to introduce in this country what he termed the “cool management” in cases of Small Pox, in the treatment of which disease he was more than ordinarily successful in his practice at Philadelphia and New York (1).

During the administration of Gov. Burnet he wrote “The History of the Five Indian Nations,” published by Bradford at New York, in 1727,—the earliest and rarest local history of New York written and printed in the Colony.

In 1745 he published at New York a few copies of an essay entitled, “An Explication of the First Causes of Action in Matter; and of the Cause of Gravitation,” with design to ascertain the sentiments of the learned on the new principles in Natural Philosophy or Physics advanced therein. This work, without the author's knowledge and against his wishes, was reprinted the following year in London. Meeting a favorable reception, he was encouraged to revise it, and made considerable additions thereto, which he had published in London in 1752, with the title of “The Principles of Action in Matter, the Gravitation of Bodies and the Motion of the Planets explained from those Principles.” Appended to this work is a chapter

(1) Colden Manuscript Papers.

written by him in the winter of 1743, entitled "An Introduction to the Doctrine of *Fluxions*, or the *Arithmetic of Infinites*," &c. (1).

This was the most remarkable of Dr. Colden's scientific works, and perhaps best illustrates in its original conceptions and profundity of thought, the exalted genius of its author. He was engaged many years in its preparation, and after publication in 1752,—with the view of issuing a new edition—spent much time in revising his manuscript of it, adding new arguments—based upon more recent astronomical observations made at the observatory of the Earl of Macclesfield, at Sherborn Castle, and elucidating whatever the criticisms of his learned friends in Europe or this country had pointed out as ambiguous in his theories (2).

It would be difficult to give in a brief sketch like this, an intelligible account of the scope and design of such an elaborate philosophical disquisition as "The Principles of Action in Matter," and the conclusions of the author must suffice. Following exactly whatever had been clearly demonstrated in the theories of Sir Isaac Newton in relation to the apparent mutual attraction of matter, the *cause* of which that philosopher had declared "he knew not," also "that the *cause* of gravitation cannot be material," Dr. Colden concludes with the ardor of a conviction, which deeply impressed him to the day of his death,—and which he believed the world would finally accept as true—that this *cause* is *Light*, and that from the principles of its action as explained by him, the phenomena of the motion of the planets is accounted for.

While at Coldenham he attended with great regularity the meetings of the Council at New York, and the various commissions which that body formed the whole or part of, among which was that of 1740 to settle the boundaries between Massachusetts Bay and Rhode Island, and that of 1743 to adjudicate the rights of the Mohegan Indians, to lands claimed by the Governor and Company of Connecticut, with others of kindred importance.

He was member of the King's Council from 1722 to the close of his life, and after October, 1736, whenever present, presided as eldest councilor, the Speaker of that body. He was Surveyor General from the time of his appointment by Gov. Hunter, till 1762, when he was succeeded by his eldest son Alexander.

On the death of Lieutenant Governor James DeLancey, July 30th, 1760, Dr. Colden, by virtue of his position in the Council, became Acting Governor, and immediately assumed administrative control of the Province. He soon after removed his family to New York City, leaving his third son, Cadwallader, in possession of his estate at Coldenham. On the 20th of March following he was appointed Lieutenant Governor, but his commission did not reach him till the 7th of August, 1761; this position he held up to the time of his death.

The office of Lieutenant Governor required no service, and there was no salary attached to it, except on the death or absence of the Governor-

(1) Colden MSS., and Spark's Life and Writings of B. Franklin, vol. 6, p. 95.

(2) Colden MSS.

in-chief, contingencies (<sup>1</sup>), however, that were of frequent occurrence during the fifteen years that preceded the war of the American Revolution, and which placed Lieut. Gov. Colden at the head of the Government a large portion of that interesting and critical period.

When, by the death of DeLancey, he was called to this higher position of honor—though in his seventy-third year—there was no man in the province whose force and vigor of mind, or familiarity with public affairs, better fitted him for the responsible duty, and it seems at first to have been performed in a manner equally acceptable to his sovereign and the people. But these latter years came laden with sorrows to which hitherto he had been a stranger; he was soon called to mourn the loss of his faithful and devoted wife, whose companionship had formed the chief pleasure of his life, and a few months thereafter he followed to the grave his youngest daughter, Catharine.

Alice Christy, the wife of Gov. Colden, was born (probably at Kelso, the place of her marriage,) January 5th, 1690; the daughter of a Scotch clergyman, she appears to have received in her girlhood such mental culture as well befitted her for the duties of after life, and the social station to which she succeeded by the side of her illustrious husband. At a time when the knowledge of ordinary branches of learning was regarded a singular distinction in woman, she was the capable instructress of her children, and in the first years of her residence at Coldenham—from the frequent absence of her husband on public business—their education devolved almost entirely upon her. In addition to her common household duties, while here, she found time to assist her husband in the care of his accounts, and aided him in copying his papers and correspondence (<sup>2</sup>). She taught her children habits of "virtue and economy," of which she gave them in her life and character the "brightest example." She died at the Government house, Fort George, New York City, March, 1762.

While saddened by these domestic afflictions, he saw with pain the rise of those political disturbances that finally severed the colonies from the rule of the British crown. From his convictions of duty while the representative of his sovereign's authority, he never wavered, but encountered with courage and firmness the violent spirit that was evoked by those arbitrary acts of Parliament—the prelude of the Revolution—the odium of which was directed alike against the objectionable acts and those charged with their execution. It is not our purpose to detail the events that followed to the close of his life, through all of which however, he displayed an unfaltering, consistent loyalty, and devotion

(1) After receiving his commission as Lieutenant Governor, he was Acting Governor until the 26th of October, 1761, when he was superseded by Robert Monckton, the Governor-in-chief. On the 13th of November, 1761, Gov. Monckton re-delivered the seal of the Province to Lieut. Gov. Colden, and two days after embarked at the head of the army on the expedition to Martinique. On the 12th of June, 1762, Gov. Monckton returned and assumed the government, but on his departure for England, June 28th, 1762, the administration again fell into Colden's hands until the arrival of Sir Henry Moore, on the 13th of November, 1765. Gov. Moore dying on the 11th of September, 1769, Colden again became acting Governor, but was superseded by the Earl of Dunmore, October 18th, 1770. Gov. William Tryon succeeded Dunmore on the 9th of July, 1771, but leaving for England on the 7th of April, 1774, Lieut. Gov. Colden became for the last time the executive head of the Province, until Tryon's return, June 25, 1775.

(2) Colden MSS.

to principle, which, if it fails to enlist our sympathy, challenges our admiration and respect.

In May, 1762, Gov. Colden purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, lying near Flushing, L. I., and a year or two after erected a large and substantial mansion there, giving to the place the name of Spring Hill. At this country seat he resided, when released from official cares, with the remnant of his family and that of his youngest son, David.

His last published letter on the affairs of the Province was addressed to the Earl of Dartmouth, July 3d, 1775, informing him that Congress had appointed George Washington commander-in-chief of the American army. He now ceased to participate actively in public affairs, and in retirement at Spring Hill passed the remainder of his long and eventful life.

Some of the prominent institutions of our city had their origin in the zeal he always evinced for enterprises which tended to promote the public good. The New York Chamber of Commerce, now the most influential commercial body in this country, in gratitude for their charter, granted by him in 1770, ordered the next year a full length portrait of him to be painted, which for many years adorned the walls of their place of meeting. It is now in the New York Historical Society's collection of American Portraits.

He was the first New Yorker who achieved an extensive transatlantic reputation, either as a historian, a man of scientific acquirements, or as a philosophical writer, or who was recognized abroad among men of learning solely on account of his literary labors. He was a devout christian, and as early as 1724 a communicant of Trinity Church. Philosophical study, that often obscures the mind with a cloud of infidelity, served only to open to him more clearly, and increase his faith, in the truths of revealed religion. He regarded as false the opinions of that religious class who seek to impress the idea that the pleasures of this life are incompatible with christian duties and character. He believed it more consistent with the attributes of Deity, that the constitutions of men had been so ordered, that the means which tend to their eternal happiness should not lessen or prejudice their present rational enjoyments (<sup>1</sup>). These views doubtless contributed much to that cheerfulness of disposition which was one of his prominent characteristics.

He administered the government in his latter years more in the interest of the king than in that of the people, and though the esteem of his countrymen was grateful to him, to obtain it, he never turned from the performance of what he deemed his duty as dictated by an incorruptible honor. His conduct "seems to have been regulated by the motto he inherited from his ancestors and has transmitted to his posterity, *fais bien, ne crains rien.*" In his domestic relations he was an affectionate husband and father; his letters addressed to his children are always couched in terms of most tender endearment. To promote their interests, he frequently exercised the power and influence of his official position, which unjustly—for they were men of talent and ability—called forth the charge of nepotism from his political adversaries.

(1) Colden MSS.



In business matters he was sagacious, prudent and punctual. He procured occasionally, grants of wild land, which at the time were not regarded of much value, but afterwards served to enrich him and his family. Of himself he says, "I have been enabled to live above want, to keep free from debt, so as to never suffer a labouring man to go from my house without his wages," and this was his rule through life. He possessed few of those graces of personal form and manners by which men are sometimes captivated and drawn towards a popular leader. Without aid of birth or alliance, solely by merit and the brilliant quality of his mind, he raised himself to the high position he held, and maintained it with honor, by constant industry, rigid justice and impartial action (1).

In stature he was small and high shouldered, of a dignified aspect, "with a strong conformation of body, and a vigorous constitution." He died at Spring Hill, September 20th, 1776, aged eighty-eight years and seven months, and was buried in a private cemetery attached to his farm. \* \* \* \* \*

The farm upon which Lieut. Gov. Colden lies buried, is situated about a mile and a half south of the village of Flushing, L. I. It was leased by him May 12th, 1761, for one year, from John and Thomas Willet, and on the 12th of May, 1772, conveyed by them and their wives (each of whom are named Mary in the deed), to Lieut. Gov. Cadwallader Colden, for £2,000. Reservation is made in the deed of "a certain *antient* burying Place, fenced in with a stone fence or stone Ditch (where the family of the Willets have hitherto been interred) to and for the use of the family of said Willets to bury and deposit their dead from henceforth forever," &c. (2).

During his lifetime Gov. Colden conveyed this farm to his son David, who, for his loyalty to the crown, was attainted by the act of the New York Legislature, Oct. 22d, 1779, and the property confiscated. It was purchased under this forfeiture by Walter Burling of Flushing, and subsequently owned by Hon. Benjamin W. Strong, and in 1859 by John H. Brower, Esq. It is now the property of Harrison Durkee, Esq., of New York City. It has not for many years borne the name of Spring Hill, but that of its successive proprietors. The house stands on a slight elevation on the west side of the farm, and near the public highway. A hundred yards or so north-east from it, on a ridge, the gentle slope of which to the highway is covered with young fruit trees, is the old cemetery and grave of Lieut. Gov. Colden. A few large boulders imbedded in the earth mark the original size of the cemetery, which must, from the indications, have contained from fifteen to twenty graves. These are now covered by a thick cluster of locust trees, three to four feet apart, apparently of thirty to forty years growth. It is in vain the visitor looks for some memorial or sign that might designate the precise spot where repose the ashes of Gov. Colden. A few rough head-stones, such as were commonly used a century and a half or more ago, lying flat on the ground at the lower edge of the plot, covered with moss and weeds, most of them broken and defaced, bearing the name of *Willet*, are all the present visible evidences that this was an

(1) *American Lady*, Ed. 1808, p. 188.

(2) *Liber D. of Deeds*, County Clerk's Office, Jamaica, L. I.

"antient burying Place" for the dead. Such of the inscriptions as could be deciphered by us on a recent visit there, are as follows:—

S. WILLETT	ELIZABETH
D. 1722	wife of JOHN
A. 52.	WILLETT 1st
IUN	Aged 67 ye
THO. WILLETT	Deceast Oct
D <sup>ed</sup> N <sup>br</sup> y <sup>e</sup> 30	The 19 1773.
A. D. 1724	ELIZABETH wife of
Ag <sup>d</sup> 52 y <sup>rs</sup>	—— WILLETT
	62 yr. 1754 ; (the rest illegible.)

The following is on the only marble slab lying in the place :

Here lies interred the body of  
SARAH wife of ROBERT WHITING  
and daughter of CHARLES and  
ELENA WILLETT who departed  
this life 7<sup>th</sup> July 1797 aged  
38 years  
also WILLETT her son who departed this life  
the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1792 aged 6 years

On one stone are the initials M. W., no date. Three, on which everything but the date is gone, bear date 1741, 1753, and 1755. As we loitered around this old neglected burial ground, overgrown by trees and vegetation which had obliterated all identity of the dead, and even semblance of their graves, we were forcibly reminded of Bryant's lines in *Thanatopsis*,

—"Earth that nourished thee, shall claim  
Thy growth, to be resolved to earth again,  
And, lost each human trace, surrendering up  
Thine individual being, shalt thou go  
To mix forever with the elements,  
To be a brother to the insensible rock  
And to the sluggish clod, which the rude swain  
Turns with his share, and treads upon. The oak  
Shall send his roots abroad, and pierce thy mould."

In turning away from the spot, it was with a feeling of sadness that we reflected, that one of New York's most gifted sons, who had devoted nearly sixty years of his life to her public affairs and literature, while occupying the highest positions in her government, was sleeping without monument or memorial, in a neglected and almost forgotten grave.

#### WILL OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR COLDEN.

I CADWALLADER COLDEN Esquire Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New York, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made. First, my will is that all my just debts be paid by my Executors hereinafter named. Whereas I have a right to the sixth part of the Minerals and Oars in a tract of Twelve Thousand acres of Land on the Mohawks River, which I formerly held in common with Lewis Morris, James Alexander and others and likewise a right in the sixth part of the Oars & minerals in several tracts of Land on the west side of Catskill mountains, which I held in common with Vincent Mathews & others and have likewise reserved the minerals and oars in several tracts of Land which I have

sold, I give and devise to my Grandson Richard Nicolls Colden, his Heirs and Assigns forever all my Rights and Estate in the said minerals and oars, with all the Privileges I have therein. *Item.* I give to my son David my negro slaves, Horses, Oxen & stock of cattle of all sorts, together with all Carts and Waggon and other implements of Husbandry and likewise all my Household and Table Furniture of what kind so ever they be, including my silver plate, Bed and Bedding. *Item.* I give all my manuscript and printed Books to my son David. Whereas my sons Alexander and Cadwallader severally owe me sums of money on Bond, my Will is that these Bonds be absolutely discharged and annulled, provided respectively that no demand be made on my Estate on any account presumed to be due to either of them. *Item.* my Will is that after my debts & funeral charges are paid, that all my Estate in Money Bonds & Notes or what kind so ever it be, not herein before bequeathed or disposed of shall be divided into five equal parts, one fifth part thereof I give to my son Cadwallader, one other fifth part thereof to my son David, one other fifth part to my Daughter Elizabeth Delancy, one other fifth part to the children of my son Alexander deceased to be equally divided among them, and the remaining fifth part to the children of my Daughter Alice Willet deceased, to be equally divided among them. And Whereas I have conveyed to my son Cadwallader my Lands at Coldenham and to my son David my Lands in the Township of Flushing, I give and devise all my remaining Lands and Tenements and Real Estate whatsoever, to my sons Cadwallader and David and to my Daughter Elizabeth Delancy, & to the children of my son Alexander and Daughter Alice Willet deceased to each of my said Sons and Daughters and to their several Heirs and Assigns, one fifth part of my said Lands & Real Estate & to the children of my son Alexander one other fifth part, to each one equal share of the said fifth part and to their several Heirs and Assigns forever and the remaining fifth part to the children of my Daughter Alice, to each an equal share of the said fifth part & to their Heirs and Assigns. And my Will is that my Executors hereinafter named, or the major part of them or the survivors or survivor of them, shall as soon as conveniently may be divide all my Lands into five shares in quantity and quality to the best of their judgment nearly equal and after having described and numbered the said shares, shall by Lots drawn in the presence of two or more reputable persons shall take or assign to each of themselves and to the children of my son Alexander and to the children of my Daughter Alice the several shares which shall by lot fall to them severally by certifying under their hands and the hands of the witnesses in whose presence the Lots were drawn, that the shares therein described and numbered fell by Lot to the Party to whom it is assigned; and my Will is that my said sons and Daughters and the children of my son Alexander and the children of my Daughter Alice and their respective Heirs and Assigns shall hold the said shares assigned to them in severalty for ever. And whereas it may be proper, in order to make a more equal division of my Estate as designed by this my Will, or for other reasons that may occur, that my Executors sell all or a part of my Lands hereby devised, I do hereby empower my Executors or the major part of them, or the survivors or survivor of them to sell all or any part of my Lands and distribute the monies thence arising, to the use and purposes for which the said Lands are devised in this last Will and Testament and also to divide and execute Deeds of Partition of any Lands which I hold as Tenant in Common. And my Will is that the Legacies hereby given to the children of my Daughter Alice out of my personal Estate, shall be paid to them personally at the time they shall be severally of the age of twenty one years, or at the day of their marriage, which shall first happen and in the mean time the money becoming due to them, shall be put out to Interest for their use and support severally.

And my Will is that in case any of the children of my Daughter Alice shall die before they be of age or marry, the share of my real and personal Estate of such child shall pass to the survivors of them. Whereas I did convey four hundred acres of Land to my Grand Daughter Alice Willet by mistake, which from the motive I had in doing it, ought to have been conveyed to her sister Anne, my Will is that four hundred pounds be deducted from the share of Alice Willet and be given to her sister Anne, unless she convey the said four hundred acres of Land to her sister Anne. Lastly my Will is that my Body be interred in a private manner with as little expense as with common Decency may be. And I constitute and appoint my sons Cadwallader and David and my Daughter Elizabeth Delancy Executors of this my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto

all written with my own hand, set my hand and seal this twentieth day of May in the year One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy-five.

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

And before the sealing and publishing of this my Will and to prevent any misunderstanding, I declare that the expense of supporting my Family including my son David his Wife and Children & of the Improvements of the Farm at Spring-hill has been paid during my life or shall be paid out of my Estate & that no part thereof shall be chargeable to my son David.

CADWALLADER COLDEN

SEAL

Signed sealed published pronounced and declared as the Last Will and Testament of the said Cadwallader Colden in the presence of us who subscribed our names as Witnesses at his Request and in his presence and in presence of each other.

GEO. BANYAR.  
THOMAS LAWSON.  
ROBERT CORNELL.

The foregoing Will republished and declared by the within named Cadwallader Colden Esquire as and for his last Will and Testament, this seventh day of August Anno Domini One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six, in the presence of us the subscribers who have signed our names as Witnesses thereto, at his request in the presence of the Testator and of each other.

ROBERT DOUGHTY.  
BENJAMIN UNDERHILL.  
EDMUND UNDERHILL.

This Will was admitted to Probate March 15<sup>th</sup> 1779.

#### COLDEN GENEALOGY.

1. CADWALLADER COLDEN,<sup>1</sup> b. in Ireland, Feb'y 7, 1687., O. S., m. Alice Christy, Nov. 11, 1715, at Kelso, Scotland; she was b. Jan'y 5, 1690, d. at the Government House, Fort George, New York City, March, 1762. He d. at Spring Hill, near Flushing, L. I., Sept. 20, 1776.—*Issue* :

2. i. ALEXANDER,<sup>2</sup> b. in Phila., August 13th, 1716; of whom presently.
3. ii. DAVID,<sup>2</sup> d. an infant.
4. iii. ELIZABETH,<sup>2</sup> b. in New York, Feb'y 5, 1719; of whom presently.
5. iv. CADWALLADER,<sup>2</sup> b. in N. Y. May 26, 1722; of whom presently.
6. v. JANE,<sup>2</sup> b. in N. Y., March 27, 1724; of whom presently.
7. vi. ALICE,<sup>2</sup> b. in N. Y., Sept. 27, 1725; of whom presently.
8. vii. SARAH,<sup>2</sup> b. July 6, 1727, died June 3, 1729.
9. viii. JOHN,<sup>2</sup> b. May 28, 1729, d. August 21, 1750, unmarried.
10. ix. CATHARINE,<sup>2</sup> b. Feb'y 13, 1731, d. June, 1762, unmarried.
11. x. DAVID,<sup>2</sup> b. Nov. 23, 1733, O. S.; of whom presently.

2. ALEXANDER,<sup>2</sup> b. in Phila., August 13th, 1716. In 1727, with his father's family became a resident of Coldenham, where for many years he exercised among the first settlers of that locality, an honorable and prominent influence in public affairs. In 1737 he was appointed Ranger of Ulster Co., N. Y., then including Coldenham, but now within the limits of the town of Montgomery, Orange Co. For several years he

kept a country store in the vicinity of Coldenham, but before 1743 removed to Newburgh, where he engaged in more extensive mercantile pursuits, and aided by his enterprise its early commercial prosperity. It is said he used the full influence of his name, and his father's official position, in inviting settlers to locate at Newburgh, and through him the Fowlers, Merriitts, Dentons and Albertsons, from Westchester and Long Island, with other leading families, became residents of the town.

In 1751 he was appointed Joint Surveyor General of the Province with his father, and succeeded him in that office in 1761-2, at which time he removed from Newburgh to New York City. He was a vestryman of Trinity Church from 1761 until his death, and Post Master of New York for some years prior to, and at the time of his decease.

He m. Elizabeth, second dau. of Richard Nicolls, Esq., of N. Y. City. She d. at Springhill, L. I., March 4, 1774, *a.* 49 years, and was buried in Trinity Church yard. He d. Dec. 12, 1774, and was buried in the family vault in the same place.—*Issue* :

12. i. RICHARD NICOLLS,<sup>3</sup> graduated at Columbia (then Kings) College, in the class of 1766, and on the 27th of August, of that year, was made Ensign in the 42d Royal Highlanders, then stationed in Pennsylvania. He left the army at the close of 1771, or early in 1772, returned to New York with his family, was appointed Surveyor and Searcher of Customs there, which office he held at the time of his death. He m. Henrietta Maria Bethune, a Scotch lady of the Isle of Man, while with his regiment in that place. His death was announced by Gov. Tryon to Lord Germain, 24th August, 1777, and probably occurred a day or two before that date.—*Issue* :

i. ALEXANDER,<sup>4</sup> d. s. p.

ii. CADWALLADER R.,<sup>4</sup> was editor in 1835-6 of the *U. S. Sporting Magazine*, published in New York.

13. ii. CADWALLADER,<sup>3</sup> d. a minor, s. p.

14. iii. JOHN,<sup>3</sup> an officer in the British Army, was lost at sea, and d. s. p. Probably the same person mentioned in Sabin's *Loyalists* as Captain First Battalion N. J. Vols.

15. iv. ALICE,<sup>3</sup> m. Col. Archibald Hamilton, m. license dated July 16, 1766. She d. during the Revolutionary war. He owned a farm at Flushing, L. I., which he sold in 1783, and sailed on the 31st of Dec. of that year for England. He d. at Edinburgh, June 1, 1795.—*Issue* :

i. A SON.

ii. JANE.

iii. ALICE.

16. v. MARGARET,<sup>3</sup> m. Major John Antill, son of Hon. Edward Antill, of N. J., in the British service during the Rev. war; m. license dated April 21, 1770. After the peace of 1783 they removed to Canada, where she died, leaving three children.

17. vi. ELIZABETH,<sup>3</sup> m. Captain, afterwards Col. Anthony Farrington, of the Royal Artillery, who in 1796 was in command at Black Heath, London. Had issue several children.

18. vii. JANE,<sup>9</sup> m. Major John Antill, after the decease of Margaret<sup>3</sup> (16), and before 1796.

4. ELIZABETH,<sup>9</sup> b. in New York, Feb'y 5, 1719; m. Peter, third son of Stephen (a) and Ann (Van Cortland) DeLancey, m. license dated Jan'y 7, 1737-8. He was b. Aug. 26, 1705, O. S., resided at Union Hill, West Farms, where he owned an extensive estate, and represented the borough of Westchester in the N. Y. Colonial Assembly from 1750 to 1768. His will is dated August 20, 1760, with codicil dated Sept. 28, 1770. He d. Oct. 17, 1770. She d. 1784.—*Issue* :

i. STEPHEN, on the 25th of Jan'y, 1765, he was commissioned clerk of the city and county of Albany, he m. Esther Rynderts of that place, (see note c, p. 117, vol. 4 of the RECORD).—*Issue* :

i. PETER.

ii. ELIZABETH.

iii. MARY.

iv. CADWALLADER.

ii. JOHN, m. Dorothy Wickham, m. license dated May 20, 1769. He was a Member of Assembly from Westchester from 1768 to 1775, when he was elected to the Provincial Congress, where he served one year. His wife d. Oct. 27, 1773.—*Issue* :

ANN ELIZABETH (b).

iii. PETER, m. Emily Beresford; he was killed in a duel, August 16, 1771, at Charleston, S. C. His opponent, Dr. John Haley, was an eminent practitioner of medicine in that city, at the time. No issue.

iv. ANN, m. John Cox of Phila. No issue.

v. ALICE, b. 1746, m. Ralph, son of Henry Izard, of South Carolina, m. license dated April 27, 1767; she was remarkable in her youth for great personal beauty, and the amiable qualities of her mind. In 1771 she accompanied her husband, who inherited an ample fortune from his father, to London. They settled in France in 1777, and the same year Mr. Izard was appointed by Congress Commissioner to the court of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. In 1780 he returned to America, his family joining him at Phila. in 1783. He was Delegate to Congress from South Carolina from 1780 to 1783, and U. S. Senator from 1789 to 1795, and for a short time President of the Senate. She d. 1832. He was b. 1742, and d. May 30, 1804.—*Issue* :

i. HENRY.

ii. GEORGE, b. 1777, Brigadier General U. S. A. March 12, 1813, Maj. Gen'l Jan'y 24, 1814, Governor of Arkansas Territory from March, 1825, till his death, at Little Rock, Nov. 22, 1828.

iii. RALPH, Jr.

iv. CHARLOTTE.

v. ANNE, b. 1779, m. Allen Deas; she d. in N. Y., Jan'y 17, 1862.

vi. ELIZABETH, d. unmarried.

vii. JAMES, was for many years High Sheriff of Westchester Co., N. Y.; in 1777 he was colonel of a regiment of loyalist militia of that county; the same year he was made captain of a troop of light horse, consisting of fifty private men, selected from the Westchester militia by Gov. Tryon, and who were cantooned between the British lines and the American forces then at White Plains. This troop was composed of the "elite" of the county, but were better known to the American Army as "Cow Boys" on account of the free use they made of the cattle in that part of the county in supplying the British Army with beef. After the war he went to Nova Scotia, where in 1797 he was a member of the council of that colony. He m. Martha Tippet of Westchester, and d. at Annapolis, N. S., in 1809. She d. same place, 1827, aged 73. They had issue, in Nova Scotia.

viii. OLIVER, b. 1750, he was an officer in the British Navy, but resigned his commission during the Revolution, because he was unwilling to fight against his native country. He lived at West Farms, West-

chester Co., where he m. Rachel Hunt of that place. He d. Sept. 4, 1820. She d. Jan'y 6, 1827, aged 60.—*Issue* :

- i. ELIZABETH.
  - ii. JULIA.
  - iii. SUSAN.
  - iv. WILLIAM A.
  - v. JOHN.
  - vi. OLIVER, d. s. p. Nov. 22, 1819.
- ix. SUSANNA, m. Thomas H., eldest son of Rev. Henry Barclay, D. D., Oct. 2, 1775. The following notice of her own and sister's marriage is copied from "Rivington's Gazette" of Oct. 5, 1775 : "On Monday evening last were married at Union Hill in the borough of Westchester, John Watts junior Esquire, recorder of this city, to Miss Jane DeLancey; and Thomas H. Barclay, Esq. to Miss Susanna DeLancey daughters of the late Peter DeLancey Esq.

" —Round their nuptial beds  
 "Hovering with purple wings, th' Italian boy  
 "Shook from his radiant torch, the blissful fires  
 "Of innocent desires  
 "While Venus scattered myrtles."

Thomas H. Barclay b. in New York City, Oct. 12, 1753, graduated at Kings College in the class of 1772, studied law in the office of John Jay, Esq., and was soon admitted to the bar. In 1776 he entered the British Army, and in Feb'y 1777 was appointed Captain in the Loyal American Regiment of New Yorkers. In 1780 he was made Major in a corps of Light Infantry, with which he served in Virginia and Carolina; was taken prisoner by the French Fleet under the Count De Grasse, while on his way from Charleston to the Chesapeake with despatches from Lord Rawdon to Earl Cornwallis, but was soon exchanged, and rejoined his regiment, with which he remained until it was disbanded in the Spring of 1783. In the fall of that year he removed with his family to Nova Scotia, where he engaged in farming at Wilmot. In 1789 he commenced the practice of law at Annapolis Royal, was soon elected to the Provincial Assembly, and for several years was Speaker of that body. In 1792 he was appointed Lieut. Col. of the Royal Nova Scotia Regiment, and the next year was made Adjutant Gen'l of the Militia of the Province. In 1796 Col. Barclay was appointed British Commissioner under Jay's Treaty, and in 1799 British Consul General at N. Y., which position he filled until 1812. In 1814 he was made Commissioner by Great Britain to carry into effect the 4th and 5th articles of the Treaty of Ghent, a service in which he was employed until 1828, when he retired from office. His habits of industry and application were extraordinary, and it is said that for a period of forty years he was never in bed at sunrise. A prominent trait in his character was kindness and charity to the poor. He d. in N. Y., April 21, 1830 (c).—*Issue* :

- i. HENRY, m. Catherine, dau. of Robert and Mary (Alexander) Watts, August 13, 1817; he was a merchant and resided at Saugerties, Ulster Co., N. Y.
- ii. DELANCEY, m. Mrs. Gurney Barclay, née Mary E. Freshfield, Norfolk, Eng. He was aide-de-camp and secretary to Frederick Duke of York, before 1810, and Lieut. Col. of the First Regt. of the Guards at Waterloo, where he distinguished himself. In 1820 he was appointed aide-de-camp to George the Fourth with rank of Colonel, a position he held at his death. He d. March 28, 1826.
- iii. THOMAS, m. at Boston Catherine, dau. of Walter Channing, Feb'y 14, 1821. He was a captain in the English Navy.
- iv. GEORGE, m. Matilda L. Aufrere, and was a merchant in New York in 1848.
- v. ANTHONY, m. Widow Glenn, Oct. 17, 1816.

- vi. BEVERLY, d. June 15, 1803, s. p.
- vii. ELIZA, m. Schuyler, son of Walter and Cornelia (Schuyler) Livingston. He b. Sept. 24, 1772. She d. July, 1817.
- viii. MARIA, m. Simon Fraser.
- ix. SUSAN, m. Peter G. Stuyvesant (*d*).
- x. ANN, m. William B. Parsons, of New York.
- x. JANE, b. Sept. 5, 1756, m. John Watts, Jr., Esq., Oct. 2, 1775; he was the third son of Hon. John Watts, Sr., and his wife Ann (DeLancey), (see note *a*), and was b. in the City of New York, August 27, 1749. He graduated at Kings College in 1766, delivering the Latin salutatory before the class of that year, and for a period of seventy years after was one of the leading men of New York, occupying various high and honorable positions in the City and State. He was Recorder of the City from 1774 until interrupted by the Revolutionary war, and a member of the State Assembly in 1788-9, 1789-90, and Speaker of that body in the sessions of 1791-2, and 1792-3. He represented New York in Congress from 1792 to '95, the entire city and county then comprising only a single congressional district, and was Judge of Westchester Co. from March 29, 1802, to June 8, 1807. He was one of the founders and a trustee of the New York City Dispensary from its organization in 1790, and after 1820 President of that institution until his death. He founded and endowed the LEAKE and WATTS Orphan House in this city, incorporated in March, 1831, giving to that noble charity an estate valued at a million of dollars. He lived for many years and died in the house No. 3 Broadway, one of the historic landmarks of the city. His will is dated May 30, 1836, and the bulk of his large estate was bequeathed to his grandchildren, John Watts De Peyster, Philip Kearny, and Susan Kearny. His wife d. March 2, 1809; he d. Sept. 3, 1836. They were buried in the family vault in Trinity Churchyard.—*Issue*, six sons and five daughters, all of whom died before their father, except one daughter.
  - i. GEORGE, First Lieut. 1st U. S. Light Dragoons, aide-de-camp to Gen'l Scott in 1814-15.
  - ii. ROBERT, Captain 41st Infantry, U. S. A., 1813.
  - iii. JOHN, Jr.
  - iv. ANN.
  - v. SUSAN, m. Philip Kearny, she d. March, 1823 (*c*).
  - vi. ELIZABETH, m. Henry Laight, Nov. 27, 1819.
  - vii. MARY JUSTINA, m. Frederick De Peyster, Jr., May 15, 1820. The other children probably died young.
- xi. WARREN, drowned in his father's mill pond before August, 1760.
- xii. WARREN. In the codicil to his father's will a share in the estate equal to that bequeathed to the other sons is left to Warren, born since the will was made. For his gallantry at the battle of White Plains, Oct. 28, 1776, then a lad of 15 years, he was made a Coronet of the 17th British Light Dragoons, but did not remain long in the service. He resided in Westchester Co. until his death in 1846. He m. 1st, Mary Lawrence; 2d, Sarah Taylor; 3d, Rebecca Lawrence.
- 5. CADWALLADER,<sup>2</sup> third son of Lieut. Gov. Colden, b. in New York, May 26, 1722; at seven years of age he removed to Coldenham, where he resided the balance of his life. His father being much from home on public business, his early education devolved upon his mother, a most excellent and capable woman. From boyhood his tastes inclined to farming, of which he says "he was more fond than literary labour." In his father's Farm Journal is the following entry: "*Jan'y. 21st 1728-9. Sent 12 bushels of wheat to Mr. Ellisons Store. 23d, ten bushels. Sandy went down & Arch Hunter there wt bags on horseback.*" Probably Cadwallader was too young in 1728-9 to be of help in taking wheat to Mr. Ellison's store, and Sandy (the usual nickname given by the family to Alexander,<sup>2</sup> (2) enjoyed the privilege of accompanying the hired man in that boyish duty, to the exclusion of his younger brother. But be-



fore 1746, young Cad., whether by carrying his father's grain there, or not, it matters little now, found his way to Mr. Ellison's store and house, likewise to the heart of his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, who became his wife. In 1747 he was appointed by Gov. Geo. Clinton Commissary of the Musters, raised in this and neighboring Provinces, with a view of operating against Canada, and then posted along the frontier. He sometimes acted as Deputy Surveyor for his father, as under date of April 27, 1754, in the office of the Secretary of the State of New York, there is a certificate of Calwallader Colden, Jr., that certain lands in the county of Albany described in an Indian Deed to Johannes S. Pruyn and Dirck B. Van Sconover, were surveyed by him, and the purchase money paid in his presence. In 1768 he was elected first supervisor of Hanover Precinct, now Montgomery, Orange Co., N. Y.

Mr. Colden was an ardent loyalist at the outbreak of the revolutionary war, and early avowed his hostility to the popular cause. The attention of the Ulster County Committee of Safety having been directed to him as "a person inimical and dangerous to the American cause," he was by their order, in June, 1776, arrested and placed in jail, but soon released through the intercession of his son Cadwallader,<sup>3</sup> (19) whom the Committee esteemed as "a decent young man." On the 25th Nov., 1776, he was again arrested, though nothing but the general charge of "disaffected" was alleged against him, and was ordered to be removed to Boston, which, however, was not carried into effect, and he was permitted to remain at Fishkill, where the Committee were then sitting, without parol having been exacted, until Jan'y, 1777, when he was allowed to return to his family, after promising to appear before the Committee whenever summoned. He was not charged with any overt act in aid of the King's cause, and his disaffection at this time was mainly apparent in the fact that he persisted, that his oath of fealty as a British subject, precluded him as an honest man from taking another of allegiance to the State of New York. His age exempted him from military service, and it may have been, rather as the representative of an old and influential family, nearly all as loyal as himself, that the Committee of Safety regarded it necessary to deprive him occasionally of his liberty, as an admonitory measure to others, in the locality in which he lived. In March, 1777, upon application to the Provincial Congress, he was permitted to repair to Fishkill, to take the benefit of their order for discharging persons confined by parol. This order among other provisions required that such persons should take oath of allegiance to the State; and in case of refusal, should receive a pass, to repair with their families to New York, or within the enemies lines, or in default thereof be confined in jail as enemies of the State. Unwilling to comply with the first conditions, he was forced to accept the alternative of confinement in Kingston jail. From here during the Summer he was removed to the Fleet prison, and though done at his request, the change instead of mitigating, served only to add severity and increased hardship to his imprisonment. Half famished for want of bread and lack of other provisions, he informs Congress by letter that if it were not that some of the prisoners were supplied with food by their friends on shore, they would starve. On the 21st Oct., 1777, he was before the State Committee of Safety at Marbletown, who propounded to him the question,

whether he acknowledged himself to be a faithful and true subject of the Free and Independent State of New York, or of the British Crown. He answered in writing, that he should ever look upon himself to be a true and faithful subject of that State from which he received protection; that he was bound by his oath of allegiance, to be a subject of the King of Great Britain, yet, as that part of New York where he lived was under an independent government, entitled the State of New York, he promised to be a true and faithful subject of said State, so long as it should remain independent and he resided therein. This answer was unsatisfactory, and he was ordered to be kept a prisoner on parol at the house of Jacobus Hardinberg, in Hurley, and on the 5th of Nov. following, the Committee further ordered that he be removed to the Nine Partners, in Dutchess Co., and placed in charge of some friend of the American cause, until further orders. While at Hurley Mr. Colden addressed the Committee a letter in which he recites,—that no charge has been exhibited against him but that of being disaffected to the American cause, and that this did not appear by his having been concerned in or privy to any plot or conspiracy, and if allowed to cultivate his farm, the State would be benefitted thereby, while gaining nothing by his confinement, he concludes by expressing the hope, they will permit him to return home under such conditions as they deem proper. As we learn nothing more of his imprisonment and detention it is probable the Committee, upon a subsequent consideration of his case, and of his promise to be a “true and faithful” subject of the “powers that be,” under milder restrictions allowed him to return to his family. Perhaps too his opinion may have been somewhat modified by these restraints, made less endurable physically at his age, by settled habits of daily outdoor exercise as a farmer. Certain it is, he was afterwards regarded more favorably by the authorities, for he escaped the penalties of the confiscation act imposed on other loyalists two years later, and which swept from his brother David<sup>2</sup> (11) all his possessions and drove him finally a political outcast from his native State and country. After the death of this brother, Cadwallader took his family, consisting of widow, son and four daughters, under his own roof at Coldenham, bestowing upon them in their bereavement and misfortune, the love and care of a tender parent. He lived to see two of these daughters married to distinguished and prominent men in New York, and the son rising to honorable fame as a lawyer.

Mr. Colden was an active member of the Episcopal Church and for years one of the Wardens of St. Andrew's in Ulster Co. The year before his death he relinquished a claim of more than £500 against this church, completely relieving it from serious financial embarrassment. Like his father he possessed a hospitable and cheerful disposition, and the aged people twenty-five years ago, in the locality where he lived, spoke in warm praise of his character for the honest uprightness that governed him in all his business transactions. He passed in quiet the latter years of his life, surrounded by his children, who resided on or adjacent to lands he and his father originally settled. Some of his descendants, though not numerous in the male line are still living in that vicinity. He m. 1745-6, Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Ellison of New Windsor, New York. (f) He d. at Coldenham Feb'y 18, 1797.—*Issue :*

19. i. CADWALLADER,<sup>3</sup> m. 1st in New York City, Elizabeth, dau. of John Fell, Esq., of N. J., Oct. 13, 1774 (*g*). They had issue, but we are unable to give names. He married 2d Christina Griffith, m. license dated Oct. 9, 1783. The Ulster Co. Committee in a letter to the N. Y. Convention Aug. 6, 1776, say it was out of compassion for Cadwallader<sup>3</sup> that they consented to liberate his father from the county jail. From this fact and their opinion that he was "a decent young man," and also that he married the daughter of a very prominent Whig, it is probable he did not share the political sentiments of his father. He was a Vestryman of Trinity Church from 1782 to 1784.
  20. ii. THOMAS,<sup>3</sup> b. 1754, m. Anne, dau. of William and Alice<sup>2</sup> (7) (Colden) Willet. He was sheriff of Ulster Co. in 1774, and a Captain in the British service during the Rev. War. After the war he settled at Coldenham, where he d. March, 1826, s. p.
  21. iii. JOHN,<sup>3</sup> d. s. p.
  22. iv. ALEXANDER,<sup>3</sup> m. Gertrude Colden, widow of David,<sup>3</sup> (24) was a farmer, and lived at Coldenham.
  23. v. WILLIAM,<sup>3</sup> d. an infant.
  24. vi. DAVID,<sup>3</sup> m. Gertrude Wynkoop, Nov. 1790; a farmer; lived at Coldenham. Issue, two children.
  25. vii. ALICE,<sup>3</sup> m. Dr. Lewis Antill, m. license dated Nov. 30, 1771; both d. 1776, leaving two daughters.
  26. viii. JANE,<sup>3</sup> m. Alexander Murray after 1796.
  27. ix. MARGARET,<sup>3</sup> m. 1st Peter Fell, by whom she had three children. She m. 2d (before 1796) Peter Galatian; they lived at Coldenham.
- The names of three other children in Cadwallader's<sup>2</sup> family we are unable to give (*h*).

6. JANE,<sup>2</sup> second dau. of Lieut. Gov. Colden, b. in New York, March 27, 1724. She early developed a fondness for reading and the study of natural history, which, under the direction of her father, made her at an early age the first botanist of her sex in this country. Soon after Linnæus originated and gave the scientific world his *System*, dividing plants and herbs into classes, Dr. Colden taught it to his daughter, putting it in an English form, and freeing it from technical terms, for her use. Having been shown by her father, a method of taking impressions of the leaves of plants on paper, with printer's ink, she took the impression of three or four hundred growing in the vicinity of Coldenham, some of which were sent to a number of eminent naturalists in Europe. Her style of description, some being now genus's and the skill displayed in taking impressions of the leaves, gave her great reputation among the scientific men under whose observation they were brought. John Ellis, the London naturalist, writes Linnæus, April, 1758, thus: "*This young lady merits your esteem, and does honor to your system. She has drawn and described 400 plants in your method. Her father has a plant called after him Coldenia; suppose you should call this (referring to a new genus) Coldenella, or any other name that might distinguish her*"

*among your genera.*" Peter Collinson also wrote Linnæus: "*I have lately heard from Mr. Colden. He is well, but what is marvelous his daughter is perhaps the first lady that has perfectly studied your system. She deserves to be celebrated.*" It adds to the credit of Miss Colden's literary and scientific achievements, that she was favored with no other advantages of learning, than such as she received at home from her father and mother. She m. Dr. William Farquhar; m. license dated March 12, 1759. At the time of their marriage Dr. Farquhar was a widower: "a very worthy good Scotchman," and for some years before the Rev. War a practitioner of medicine, "distinguished for his knowledge and abilities," in New York City and vicinity. She d. March 10, 1766. He d. May, 1787. Issue one child, d. 1766.

7. ALICE,<sup>2</sup> b. Sept. 27, 1725. m. Col. William Willet, she being his second wife.—*Issue*:

- i. GILBERT COLDEN, m. Susan, dau. of Robert Murray, of Murray Hill, N. Y. City. He was Captain in DeLancey's Third Battalion of Loyalists, and Vestryman of St. Mark's Church in 1799.
- ii. WILLIAM, d. a minor.
- iii. ALICE, m. Henry, son of Benjamin Nicoll, counsellor-at-law.
- iv. ANNE, m. Thomas Colden,<sup>3</sup> (20).

11. DAVID,<sup>2</sup> b. at Coldenham; Nov. 23, 1733 (O. S.): he was bred a physician, but never practiced his profession, except among his friends and neighbors. After May, 1761, he lived at Springhill, L. I., and was his father's private secretary. Like him he devoted much of his time to scientific pursuits, corresponding with Dr. Franklin and other eminent men, on various philosophical subjects. In the interest of the Crown he was appointed, July 15, 1780, Assistant Master of the Rolls, and Supt. of Police on Long Island, with equity powers. In 1784 he went to England to seek compensation for the loss of his property, confiscated by the New York Legislature on account of his loyalty. He d. in England, July 10, 1784, and was buried in the private grounds of St. Ann's Church, Soho, Westminster, where a monument erected by his friends, commemorates his virtues and the esteem in which he was held by all who knew him. He m. Ann, dau. of John Willet, Esq., of Flushing, L. I., Feb'y 27, 1767. She d. at Coldenham, August, 1785.—*Issue*:

28. i. CADWALLADER D.,<sup>2</sup> b. at Springhill, L. I., April 4, 1769; of whom presently.
29. ii. ALICE CHRISTY,<sup>2</sup> b. March 7, 1768, d. 1786, unmarried.
30. iii. MARY,<sup>2</sup> b. at Fort George, New York City, April 7, 1770, m. Hon. Josiah Ogden Hoffman, Feb'y 16, 1789. She d. Feb'y 19, 1797. He was b. in New York City, April 14, 1766, was admitted to the bar at an early age, and soon ranked among the most eminent members of the legal profession in his native city; was member of the Assembly in 1791-2, 1792-3, 1794-5, and 1797; City Recorder in 1810-11, and at the time of his death First Associate Judge of the Superior Court. He d. in New York, Jan'y 24, 1837 (i).—*Issue*:
- i. OGDEN, m. 1st, Emily Burrall, June 27, 1819; m. 2d, Virginia, dau. of Hon. Samuel L. Southard, of N. J. He d. in New York, May 1, 1856, aged 62 years.

- ii. ANN, m. Charles Nicholas, of Phila.
- iii. MATILDA, d. unmarried.
- iv. MARY, m. Philip, son of William Rhinelander.
- 31. iv. ANN,<sup>9</sup> b. 1773, d. same year.
- 32. v. ELIZABETH ANN,<sup>9</sup> b. Feb'y 25, 1774, m. Edward W., son of William Laight; she d. s. p. He was b. Aug. 28, 1773, and d. June, 1852.
- 33. vi. CATHARINE,<sup>9</sup> b. Nov. 20, 1775, m. Thomas, son of Dr. Ananias Cooper, of Rhinebeck, N. Y. (*j*).—*Issue*:
  - i. COLDEN, he was an ensign in the 97th Regt., 10th Brigade of Inf't. in New York, in 1812; Aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. Geo. Izard, in 1813; resigned Jan'y, 1816. Killed in a duel by Mr. Roberts, Nov. 20, 1816.
  - ii. EDWARD, d. in infancy.
  - iii. ALICE ANN.
- 34. vii. ANN,<sup>9</sup> d. young.
- 35. viii. HARRIET,<sup>9</sup> d. young.
- 36. ix. CAROLINE,<sup>9</sup> d. young.

28. CADWALLADER D.,<sup>9</sup> b. at Springhill, L. I., April 4, 1769. He received his early education partly at home from a private tutor, and at a school in Jamaica, not many miles distant from Springhill. In the spring of 1784 he accompanied his father to England, where he attended a classical school near London, until the autumn of 1785, when he returned to New York. He then commenced the study of law in the office of Richard Harrison, Esq., but family affairs compelling him to visit the Province of New Brunswick, he pursued his legal studies there for some time, and completed them on his return to New York with Hon. Peter Van Schaick at Kinderhook. He was admitted an Attorney in Jan'y, 1791; commenced practice in the city of New York for a short period, and then removed to Poughkeepsie; there his success was so decided as to encourage him to resume his station at the New York City bar in 1796. In Jan'y, 1798, he was appointed District Attorney, and by his zeal, industry and talent, laid the foundation of his subsequent eminence as a lawyer. In a few years, his intense application to business, impaired his health and seriously alarmed his friends, who induced him in the spring of 1803 to visit France, where (and in other parts of the Continent) he spent 18 months. Returning with restored health and constitution invigorated, he found no difficulty in recovering and rapidly extending his business, and in a few years he stood, as a commercial lawyer, at the head of the profession, while in every other respect he was ranked among the first. He was again appointed District Attorney in Feb'y, 1810, and served one year. In the war of 1812-14, having been commissioned Colonel of a Regt. of Vols., by Gov. Tompkins, he left his large and lucrative practice, to attend to military duties, contributing his aid efficiently in the erection of the fortifications, which were then deemed necessary for the defence of the City of New York. He was elected a member of the Assembly in 1818, and the same year succeeded Jacob Radeliff as Mayor of the city, presiding in the Municipal Court with marked ability, dignity and impartiality, and fully sustaining the high reputation which that Court had obtained. In 1822 he was elected to Congress, and in 1824 to the Senate of his own State, in which he served during the sessions of 1825-6 and 7.

The education of youth was with him a favorite object, and the public schools of New York ranked him among the most active and efficient of their founders and patrons. He was Governor of the New York Hospital from 1812 to 1827; and one of the earliest and most zealous promoters of the system of internal improvement in this State. In 1827 he devoted much time in superintending the construction of the Morris Canal, connecting the waters of the Delaware River, with the bay of New York. He prepared an elaborate memoir on the completion of the Erie Canal, published by the Common Council of New York, and wrote the life of his friend, Robert Fulton, which was his chief literary production. In the latter years of his life, he contemplated the publication of the writings of his grand father, Lieut. Gov. Colden, with a memoir of his life, from original papers in his possession, but he made only partial advances in this undertaking. He was ever solicitous to afford encouragement to the younger members of his profession, and to genius in the Arts and Sciences; to such, he liberally imparted his counsels and his hospitalities, and even, when requisite, pecuniary aid, while no advocate at the bar was more prompt to lend his professional services, without reward, in defence of the poor and unfortunate.

On a Mural Tablet in Grace Church, New York City, is the following inscription to his memory.

TO THE MEMORY OF  
CADWALLADER D. COLDEN,  
FOR SEVERAL YEARS MAYOR OF THIS CITY, A SENATOR OF THIS STATE,  
AND ONE OF ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONGRESS OF THE U. S.  
HIS TALENTS AND PUBLIC SERVICES ADDED A LUSTRE TO THESE  
AND MANY OTHER HONOURS AND TRUSTS BESTOWED UPON BY HIS NATIVE CITY.  
HE WAS ALIKE EMINENT FOR LEGAL LEARNING AND ELOQUENCE,  
FOR ARDENT LOVE AND PURSUIT OF GENERAL SCIENCE,  
AND FOR USEFUL APPLICATION OF ALL HIS ACQUIREMENTS  
TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY.  
AS HIS PHILANTHROPY AND PATRIOTISM  
COMMANDED THE CONFIDENCE AND ATTACHMENT OF HIS FELLOW-CITIZENS  
SO HIS KINDNESS FRANKNESS AND GENEROSITY  
WON THE WARM AFFECTIONS OF HIS FAMILY AND NUMEROUS FRIENDS  
BY ONE OF WHOM, WHO HAVING WITNESSED MOST NEARLY  
CAN BEST ESTIMATE HIS WORTH  
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED.

He m. April 8, 1793, Maria, dau. of Rt. Rev. Samuel Provost, D. D., and Maria, his wife, dau. of Benj. Bousfield, Esq., of Lake Lands, near Cork, Ireland. He d. in Jersey City, N. J., Feb'y 7, 1834; his wife d. May 10, 1837.—*Issue*:

37. i. DAVID CADWALLADER,<sup>4</sup> b. in New York, Jan'y 9, 1797; graduated at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in the class of 1817. Studied law with his father and was admitted to the bar in 1819. He was one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, from 1846 until his death; one of the original Commissioners of Emigration from the organization of that body in May, 1847, and President thereof in 1847-8, having been succeeded in 1848 by the late Gulian C. Verplanck. He superintended the carrying of the Croton water from Manhattan to Ward's Island,

a valuable and difficult work which was among the last of his useful services to the Hospital and House of Refuge. As a member of the various public benevolent institutions of our city, he labored with great earnestness to promote the objects for which they were established, and as Commissioner of the House of Refuge and Board of Emigration, frequently performed his duties in the midst of disease and pestilence, regardless of the personal hazard it imposed. He always manifested a deep interest in the progress of the Fine Arts in this country, and was active in promoting their growth and prosperity. He was eminently social, generous and disinterested in his character—qualities that exacted from a wide circle of friends a full measure of respect and affection. He m. Frances, dau. of Charles Wilkes, Esq., of N. Y. City, Dec. 1, 1819; she was b. Nov. 27, 1796. He d. April 11, 1850. No issue. In October, 1852, Mrs. David C. Colden presented through Mr. Frederick DePeyster to the New York Historical Society a large "portion of the Colden Papers, long appreciated for the interesting materials "which they contain for elucidating our early colonial "history," and these are now the property of that worthy and time honored institution. To this lady the compiler is indebted for valuable facts and dates in the preparation of this paper, and here at its conclusion, he desires to express to her his grateful acknowledgment for the same.

## NOTES.

(a) STEPHEN DE LANCEY was a French Huguenot, born at Caen, in Normandy, Oct. 24, 1663. He fled from his native country to avoid the religious persecutions that followed the revocation of the edict of Nantes in 1685, and arrived in New York June 7, 1686, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits and soon became one of the most noted and wealthy merchants in America. His store was on the N. E. corner of Broad and Pearl Streets, and his residence during the latter years of his life was on the west side of Broadway, a short distance above Trinity Church. He m. Jan'y 23, 1700, Ann, dau. of Stephen Van Cortlandt (the first Mayor of this city born in America), and his wife Gertrude Schuyler. Stephen De Lancey d. in New York in 1741. His wife d. 1742, aged 65 years.—*Issue* :

- i. STEPHEN, d. an infant.
- ii. JAMES, b. 1702; Chief Justice and Lieut. Gov. of New York; m. Ann, eldest dau. of Caleb Heathcote, d. July 30, 1760; she d. 1779.
- iii. PETER, m. Elizabeth Colden.
- iv. SUSAN, m. Sir Peter Warren, in 1731; he d. in Ireland, July 9, 1752.
- v. STEPHEN, b. 1714, d. 1745, unmarried.
- vi. JOHN, b. 1715, d. 1741, unmarried.
- vii. OLIVER, m. Phila, dau. of Jacob Franks, of Phila., in 1742. He was a General Officer in the British service, and commanded the DeLancey Battalion in Westchester County and on Long Island during the early part of the Rev. War. He d. on Long Island about the middle of that war, and was buried in the family vault in Trinity Church.
- viii. ANN, b. April 23, 1723, m. Hon. John Watts, Sr., July, 1742; d. July 3, 1775. He was b. in New York, April 5, 1715; d. in Wales, August, 1789.

(b) ANN ELIZABETH DE LANCEY became the 3d wife of Joseph C. Yates, Governor of N. Y. from 1822 to '25. He was b. at Schenectady, N. Y., Nov. 9, 1768; d. same place March 19, 1837.—*Issue* :

- i. Mrs. J. D. WATKINS, of Georgia.
- ii. Mrs. SAMUEL NEAL, of New York.

(c) In the act of attainder passed by the Legislature of New York, 1779, he is described as Thomas H. Barclay, Esq., and that is the name given in his marriage license. The H. however, is usually omitted, for what reason we cannot explain. See *Heraldry of St. Paul's Chapel, New York*, vol. 3, p. 21 of the RECORD.

(d) PETER G. STUYVESANT, m. 2d, Helen Sarah, dau. of Hon. John Rutheford of N. J. He d. s. p. at Niagara Falls, August 16, 1847, in the 69th year of his age and was buried in the ancient family vault in St. Mark's, in this city, where a marble tablet is placed to his memory, adjoining the pew in which he and his family worshipped. He was at the time of his death probably one of the wealthiest citizens of the United States. He was distinguished for a wise and munificent liberality, and the City of New York was greatly indebted to him for its exercise in behalf of her public charitable and literary institutions. She d. in N. Y. City, Aug. 17th, 1873, aged 84 years.

(e) SUSAN (WATTS) KEARNY was the mother of Maj. Gen'l Philip Kearny. He b. in N. Y. City, June 2, 1815; killed at the battle of Chantilly, Va., Sept. 1, 1862. Gen'l Scott said of him "he was the bravest man I ever knew, and a perfect soldier."

(f) THOMAS ELLISON, emigrated from England and was among the first settlers of New Windsor, Orange Co., N. Y. Eager says "he was there as early as 1732, kept a store and owned sloops, which sailed to New York." From Colden's Farm Journal it appears he was settled in business there, three or four years before that time. He had six children :

- i. THOMAS, a Vestryman of Trinity Church from 1781 to 1784, m. Mary Peck.
- ii. WILLIAM, m. Mary, dau. of Richard and Elizabeth (Hutchinson) Floyd, of Setauket, L. I.
- iii. JOHN, m. Catharine Johnston, of Kingston, N. Y.
- iv. ELIZABETH, m. Cadwallader Colden (5).
- v. and vi. NELLY and POLLY, who never married.

(g) JOHN FELL was a member of the Continental Congress from N. J. from 1778 to 1780. He lived at Paramus, and in 1776 was Chairman of the Committee of Safety for the County of Bergen, and though invested with almost absolute power, he exercised his duties, in the then disorganized condition of the State government, with characteristic meekness, and with great discretion and humanity. After the occupation of New York by the British forces, New Jersey was overrun by the enemy, and in 1777, he was surprised by Lt. Col. Buskirk, a loyalist, and former neighbor of his, taken prisoner and for a time suffered with Col. Ethan Allen all the horrors of confinement in the Old Provost Prison, in New York. Being a lawyer he drew for many of his dying comrades their last Wills and Testaments. He possessed a vigorous constitution, which enabled him to endure his captivity without serious injury to his health, and he lived to a ripe old age. He kept a journal while a prisoner, but the MSS. was unfortunately lost some years ago.

(h) The following names we have been unable to trace :

- ELCIE COLDEN m. Edward Downes, m. license dated Feb'y 12, 1767.  
ELIZABETH COLDEN m. Daniel Drake, m. license dated March 20, 1780.

(i) JOSIAH OGDEN HOFFMAN, m. 2d, Maria Fenno, Aug. 7, 1802.—*Issue* :

- i. CHARLES FENNO, b. 1806, an author.
- ii. GEORGE E.
- iii. JULIA.

(j) DR. ANANIAS COOPER, d. April 4, 1797.











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